

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1500
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MENTAL DISORDERS
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) about 7-15 percent of children suffer from significant mental disorder in the country;
- (b) if so, the detail thereof, and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such disorder among children?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b): The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has not carried out any country-wide community prevalence study to assess magnitudes of mental disorders among children in India. However, a study conducted by the ICMR during 1995-2000 at Bangalore and Lucknow, has estimated that 12-13% of the children aged 0-16 years have mental health problems (excluding only Specific Learning Disability). The study focused only on the pattern and rural-urban differences only. The most common mental illness reported was nocturnal enuresis. Simple phobia, stammering, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), oppositional defiant disorder (ODD) were other common diagnosed problems. Prevalence rate was significantly higher among urban male children.

(c) Government of India is implementing District Mental Health Programme under National Mental Health Programme for providing basic mental health care to the population including mentally ill children. Government has envisaged in the National Mental Health Programme for 11th Five Year Plan to include new components of life skills education and counseling services in schools to address the treatment and prevention of mental disorders, and innovative schemes on Public Private Partnership basis to address the mental health needs of the out of school children.